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SIPDIS

DEPT FOR DS/DSS/IP, DS/IP/EUR, EUR/EX, PARIS FOR USSS MANNY
FERNANDEZ

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION ON NEWS STORY REGARDING SECRET
SERVICE INCIDENT WHILE ON JENNA BUSH PROTECTIVE DETAIL IN
SOUTHERN SPAIN

1. News articles have just been released relating to an incident that occurred in the southern town of Tarifa, Spain, on June 10, at 1630 hours, between several organized crime street criminals and two Secret Service Agents who were working a protective detail on President Bush's daughter Jenna. The facts have been misrepresented in the local press and the following are the correct salient details regarding the incident.

2. While USSS Agents were attempting to keep their appropriately remote but responsive distance from the vacationing Ms. Bush, a couple of them took up a vantage point at a sidewalk cafe. One Agent's cell phone was on the table when three thugs in their early twenties sauntered by and picked up his phone and began to walk away assuming that they were impressively intimidating enough to prevent the Agent from coming after his phone. It was later learned that these youth were part of an organized gang that demanded protection money from local vendors and ruled the small area with fear. The Secret Service Agent immediately went after his necessary means of communication. The three youth faced him down and challenged his demand for his cell phone. A scuffle ensued which led to the two USSS Agents demonstrating their superior resolve and capability, the recovery of the cell phone, and a bloody nose and lip for the leader of the pack. In addition, one of the gang members was thrown into the side of a car and crumpled the metal. At one point, one Agent's weapon holster came unsnapped and the handgun fell onto the street. The Agent quickly recovered it and re-snapped it in his holster. The handgun was never pointed at anyone nor used to intimidate. The police were called. The gang returned shortly thereafter with a fourth member and hand-made batons. The two USSS Agents were still present and before the next scuffle could evolve, the police arrived and arrested the youth gang.

3. As is customary, the police wanted to take the USSS Agents in for questioning as well, but Ms. Bush, who was completely unaware that anything had occurred, was beginning to change locations and the Agents needed to continue their work. The RSO office had provided an FSNI, Juan Diaz, to act as liaison on this detail and moments like this are when a great FSNI really pays off. Juan used his previous police experience and contacts to convince the police to deal with the gang members only and to allow the Agents to go about their job. Those police will be properly thanked by the RSO office. As the USSS Agents began to leave, vendors from the area and some general public came up to them to offer their appreciation and thanks for standing up against this group who had been terrorizing them.

4. It was impractical for the Agents to stay and press charges against the gang since they would not be in Spain two months later for the court hearing. However, the man who owned the car with the crushed side did file a police complaint against the thugs. In summary, first, Jenna Bush was completely uninvolved and unaware that it even occurred until later. Second, all Agents acted professionally and with restraint and deserve congratulations. Third, the gun was never drawn against anyone including the criminals because the situation did not call for it. It was unfortunate that the gang chose the wrong person to steal from but it was in no way instigated or amplified by the USSS Agents. There are several versions to this incident in different papers all looking to make their dramatic mark but these are the facts.

ARGYROS